Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): No, in Travancore waters.

Mr. President: I am afraid the motion is clearly out of order.

Mr. K. Ayyappan (*Ezhuvas-Kanayannur*): He was travelling from Cochin territory to another Cochin territory.

Mr. President: If any inconvenience was caused by the administrative application of any provision by a neighbouring State, represent it to the Government and we will see if any representation could be made to the authorities concerned. Certainly this is not a proper matter for an adjournment motion.

(3) *Re. plight of tenants on re-settlements of Devaswam Lands.*

Mr. President: Another motion by the same member raises the question of "The present sad plight of the tenants in view of the Gazette Notification, dated 15th Karkadagam 1113, ordering re-settlement of certain lands in the possession of the tenants." Has the Government made any such notification?

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Yes, regarding the re-settlement of Devaswam lands.

Mr. President: The hon'ble member himself has given out the reasons for not allowing the adjournment motion. I am afraid this motion also is not in order. I may, however, state for the information of the hon'ble members that I have had representations about this matter and I propose to give opportunities for all the tenants' associations and their representatives to present their case, and no action will be taken by the Government with regard to the Devaswam lands without adequate consideration of the whole question (*Hear, hear*).

Nominations to Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. President: I have to announce to the House that I have nominated Messrs. C. R. Iyyunni and Govinda Pai as the Panel of Chairmen for this Session.

Condolence Motion on the demise of the Late Minister Mr. Ambat Sivarama Menon.

Dr. A. R. Menon: (*Minister for Rural Development*): Sir, by virtue of the position that I occupy, the melancholy duty of introducing this condolence resolution devolves upon me. The sudden death of my predecessor in Office has come with such startling suddenness that the whole State felt as though benumbed. I feel very delicate in proposing this resolution because of my close relationship to the late Minister and of the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

fact of my being a member of the same family. I would therefore request the House to consider me for the time being only as a member representing the Government forgetting the fact that I happen to be a member of his house. It is only by forgetting that aspect that I would be able even to touch in a limited manner the great qualities of head and heart of the gentleman who occupied this place during the last Session.

Sir, the late Minister belonged to a family in the distant Taluk of Chittur. He had wide experience of politics and a very large experience in the legal profession. And when he came over here to perform the last rites in connection with the demise of the first Vice-President of this House, the members of our family persuaded him to remain and work in this State itself. Without indulging in any exaggeration I may state to the House that many of our ancestors have been able to render loyal service to the State in olden times. With the advent of civic administration introduced by Mr. Banerji, the members of this family wholeheartedly entered into the civic administration and for a period of nearly 15 years the Municipal administration of Chittur was run by one member or other of our family.

I am glad to note that even to-day the destinies of that Municipality are in the hands of a member of my own house—I refer to the Deputy Leader of the Cochin State Congress Party. With the introduction of the reforms somehow or other in this House 3 of us represented various constituencies with occasional lapses from the very inception of this Council, and we had the signal honour of having a member of that house as the first elected Deputy President of this Assembly. We thought that in a family which may be considered as a political family just as an industrial family or a commercial family, there is no one to replace the late Dr. A. G. Menon except Mr. A. Sivarama Menon, and it is on that persuasion that he entered this Council. I want to disabuse from the minds of the public one thing. There has been a talk that he was one of the most prominent members of the Justice Party and he simply left that party and joined us for purposes not very honourable to him. Nothing is further from the truth. Till the Congress withdrew the civil disobedience movement, in spite of the persuasion that I could bring to bear on Mr. Sivarama Menon, he definitely and completely refused to join the Congress Party, holding that a lawyer has the primary duty of recognizing the existing law and no lawyer has the right to violate the laws. It is only when this civil disobedience movement was removed from the agenda of the Congress and the Congress became a constitutional body that he condescended to join us. During the whole of his life-time no one has entertained such loyalty and such

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

devotion to the memory of the great leaders of the Justice Party like Sir Theagaraja Chettiar, Raja of Panagal and Dr. T. M. Nayar. He used to speak in such glowing terms of their statesmanship till the very day of his death, and a person who can hold the memory of the departed leaders so loyally cannot be a person who is capable of sacrificing his sense of honour, sense of dignity and be a turn coat for his own personal purposes. I wanted this aspect to be explained to this House. I know that the members of this House after knowing him for sometime has ceased to believe this statement.

Sir, it is a great pleasure to me that not only the general public without any distinction of caste, creed or religion, but also the hon'ble members of this House especially the leader of the opposition and his friends have borne testimony to the various qualities of head and heart of Mr. Sivarama Menon. They have done all possible honour to him by rushing to the place to attend his funeral. I wish to convey to them my thanks for the generous impulse that prompted them to take such keen interest and to show in all possible manner their respect to one who did not see eye to eye with them in political matters. It is only by establishing such a convention that we would be able to lead at least a tolerable life. Man shows these virtues only on occasions like this when all animosities are forgotten, when all silly ideas are given the go-by, and then real human nature asserts itself and they find only the good points that a person possesses.

Sir, it is heart-breaking that the very day that he reached our place he passed away. The last public function that he was destined to perform was the highest honour that could be achieved by any citizen or any subject of His Highness. Owing to the unavoidable absence of the Diwan, the honourable duty of escorting His Highness as his chief executive officer fell upon the Minister and that was the last function he performed. After that, as though destiny was pursuing his foot-steps he ran from this place to Trichur, and without stopping there ran further to his own homeland followed by the Angel of death at his feet. When he reached there he went to the T. B., but that inscrutable destiny drove him from the T. B. and took him to the old house. He saw all the old people of the house, went into the family temple and then occupied his old home. The next day morning, again that invisible force drove him from his drawing room to his bed-room and at the bed where his mother died 6 months ago, he breathed his last.

Gentlemen, it has been my melancholy duty to do the last rites to both the mother and the son. I want only to make one reference more and I will close. When the information was telegraphed to His Highness and the Diwan at Geneva, His

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Highness issued instructions through the Sarvadhikariakar that all possible honour should be rendered to his trusted Minister. And he was given a burial, a cremation accompanied by all the paraphernalia including military honours, which are only reserved for the members of the Royal family. To His Highness the Maharaja the virtues alone accounted and not the social status or the social position that the Minister occupied. To him the moment that death supervened there was no difference between Prince and peasant or the Ruler and the subject, but only those virtues that shore in him and brought him to the position that he occupied before his death. His Highness issued telegraphic instructions to render all possible honour to him. When our Karanavan knew that I am to move this condolence resolution he desired me to convey in public, our homage and appreciation of the Royal act and I wish to convey the same to the House.

Now, with your leave, Sir, I would make one more observation. When the Diwan heard the demise he also sent special communications to us deploring the loss that he sustained as a personal friend. We are not likely to forget the various gestures of courtesy and kindness that the head of the administration has showered upon the family and on his wife and children. Acts like these are not easily forgotten and when occasion arises it is our fixed determination to return this kindness in a worthy manner.

You shall see no more his face scarred with lines of adversity, because adversity has been his bed fellow from the cradle to the grave. You will never understand the poignant grief, the bitter disappointment and adversity he has gone through all his life. One who deserves a better fate, Providence decided otherwise and at the last moment when he reached the promised land a cruel fate snatched him away. You shall never hear that moderate sonorous tone which appeals more to our sense than to our passion. Never shall you see the like of him. If I cannot pay a proper tribute the House will easily understand that it is very difficult for me to do so. It is a very strange thing to see persons in such antethesis to each other should come into contact with each other and move together so closely. The unlikes attract each other and the extremes meet together. While he requires spurring I require bridling. One always wanted to thrust forward and the other always wanted to keep back. The combination of spurring and bridling, the enthusiasm of the one and the worldly wisdom of the other, has been broken and I feel very diffident sitting in this place to carry out the work of one who by any standard whatsoever is infinitely superior to me, and my only hope is, realising this limitation of my humble self,

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

the House would not expect me to perform the task that he has performed with such distinction and with such ability.

Sir, I do not wish to say anything more. I find it very difficult to say anything more. Therefore, with your leave, I shall read the condolence resolution and place it before the House for its unanimous acceptance. "*This House places on record its deep sense of sorrow on the sudden and sad demise of Mr. Ambat Sivarama Menon, the first Minister for Rural Development.*"

Mr. L. M. Pylee (*Latin Christians—Ernakulam*): Sir, on behalf of the State Congress Party of which I am member I wish to say that my party associates itself with all the sentiments that have been expressed just now by the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development. Sir, at the conclusion of the last session, we never thought—we could not have imagined—that this misfortune would befall us, and to-day when another session has begun we miss that great soul, we miss in that seat, the gentleman with that amiable countenance, with that serene expression, which bespoke of the great qualities of his heart and soul; and the House feels all the poorer for it. It is a loss, and it is a great loss. My party, Sir, had always great reverence, high appreciation and profound admiration for the late Mr. Ambat Sivarama Menon during the brief term of office which he held in the State. It is true that some temporary tension necessarily prevailed during the ministerial formation, but when we heard that it was Mr. Ambat Sivarama Menon whom His Highness has called upon to resume charge of the administration of the transferred departments, though we were members of the party opposed to the party to which he belonged, we were glad and we felt that the mantle of the first Minister of Cochin had fallen on the shoulders of a worthy man, a worthy citizen, a worthy patriot, who loved the State and wanted to serve the State, even at the fag end of his life.

Sir, my acquaintance with the late Mr. Ambat Sivarama Menon has been little. I had not the privilege of a long acquaintance with him. But the one thing that made an indelible impression upon me was that admirable speech he delivered at the conclusion of the general discussion of the budget at the last session. I never imagined what was going to come. That was a speech which was musical and I feel that this Hall is still resonant with the music of that beautiful speech, of the musical voice with which he delivered it and of the substantial and high ideas which he expressed therein. That has made an indelible impression upon my mind.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

I had a few minutes talk with him on the way to Bolghatty to attend the social that was being given by Mr. Skrine. During that like conversation I found his enthusiasm, his solicitude, his great eagerness to work the constitution, his loyalty and devotion to the constitution that had been inaugurated and I found that his heart was brimming with enthusiasm for the welfare of the people of rural villages. I happened to speak to him of the various sufferings, of the great want of amenities in some of the villages. I found his heart full of sympathy and he made the promise that he would try his level best to see that these sufferings were alleviated as far as possible and as soon as possible.

Sir, in fact the loyalty and devotion which he evinced towards the new constitution, the eagerness with which he worked, the enthusiasm with which he wanted to work the constitution were remarkable. Surely if he had lived, if he had been spared and if we had the privilege to enjoy his Ministership, there could be no doubt that the constitution would have been a great success. It will be a great success no doubt. But our expectations were that his association with it would make it a great success.

Sir, his qualities have been dealt with by one who knew him intimately and it is not for me to repeat what the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development has said. I cannot claim that intimacy and that knowledge of the sterling qualities of head and heart which adorned this great soul. His qualities were obvious, were so clear to everybody who came in contact with him. It is not my purpose therefore to dwell upon them.

My party feels the loss in spite of it being in opposition and it feels that it is an almost irreparable loss. Surely the ideal which he has set up when he was in office even though for a short time, the ideals of hard work, the ideals of eagerness and enthusiasm for the welfare of the rural population, the enthusiasm with which he moved from place to place not avoiding any opportunity to bring himself into contact with the masses of the people, the ideals of self-sacrifice and devotion and loyalty to the constitution, the determination to work the constitution and make it a success, these are certainly matters which will give inspiration for those who succeed him. Short as his stay in office was, the memory will ever remain in our hearts. Without any distinction of caste, creed or party his memory will be cherished in the hearts of every member of this House, no matter to what party he belongs. His ideals will serve as inspiration to his successors and I am sure if the constitution is worked in the spirit and with the ideals he practised and inculcated, surely the constitution is bound

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

to be a success. Therefore, Sir, without taking more of the time of hon'ble members I want to say that my party associates itself with the sentiments that have been so ably, so eloquently and so effectively expressed by the Hon'ble Minister and I heartily support on behalf of my party the resolution that has been placed for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. V. J. Mathai (*Planters*): Sir, I rise to join in this homage paid to the haloed memory of the late Mr. Ambat Sivarama Menon.

Of him it could be truly said that he lived a life of service to his fellow-men. His inestimable services to the cause of co-operation in Madras, his various contributions to the public life of that city and more recently the work he has done as the first Minister of his mother State and of his Royal Master are too well-known and too fresh in our memories to bear repetition. In this age of speculators and economists Mr. Sivarama Menon was one who always thought that his life should not be spent vainly in getting and spending. To him money was no consideration. To him honours were far below honour; and I may say, Sir, that I have had an occasion of testing his sense of honour—an occasion when the fate of the Ministry was hanging in the balance—an occasion in which one could see into the soul of the man; and I say, Sir, that I saw into the soul of that great man and I was astonished at its sterling qualities. At 1-30 a. m. in the previous night when it was uncertain whether he would be summoned the next day and when he thought that my support might turn the scales, not one dishonourable word, not one word of promise did he utter to influence me. Such a conduct is rare in this 'Kaliyuga' when people sacrifice their honour for getting some high position.

To him, "Life was real, life was earnest and the grave was not its goal" and 'departing he has left behind him more than foot-prints in the sands of time.' In fact, he has left his name written in the history of Cochin, in golden letters as a successful, as a popular, and as an honourable first Minister of the Cochin State serving our Maharaja, who, out of His Magnanimity of soul, has bestowed upon his people, the great boon of Responsible Government which has not been attained in the 600 and odd sister States in India, even at the expense of lives which are valuable in the sight of God and man.

He was a perfect gentleman and maintained his human relationships with an unsullied name and a dignity all his own and to him could be aptly applied the rhymes of Shakespeare

> "His life was gentle; and the elements
> So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

And say to all the world, This was a man!"
May his soul rest in peace.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder (*Jews—Nominated*): On behalf of the Jewish community of Cochin I associate myself with the tributes paid to our late Minister. It was certainly tragic that he was suddenly removed from us before he actually started his work. It is the will of God and we cannot question it. In the midst of this great sorrow one consolation is that we have in Dr. A. R. Menon a worthy successor to an illustrious predecessor. I am sure Dr. Menon will continue the work begun by his late cousin to the best of his ability. I assure of my whole-hearted support and co-operation.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni (*Trichur-South*): Mr. Diwan-President, Sir, It is with considerable sorrow that I have to support this resolution moved by Dr. A. R. Menon who is both the leader of our party and a quasi-Government Officer. So I take the burden of expressing our deep sorrow at the sudden demise of our trusted leader for some time. Nobody ever thought that death will so cruelly snatch from our midst our trusted leader. His separation from us has made him dearer and more valuable than we thought he was. It is only when he is removed from our midst that we began to realise that we have lost in him a man whose equal it is difficult to find in this State of Cochin. I happened to know him only for a very short time and during that time of my acquaintance with him, I have seen in him a gentleman, every inch a gentleman. It is very difficult to say of any man that he is a perfect gentleman. His composure of mind, his tact in tackling situations, his good manners, must certainly have attracted anybody. As a lawyer, his presentation of facts was everything that is desirable. His arguments appealed to every reasonable man. The Goddess of fortune was not blessing him even from the very start of his life. It was towards the close of his life that she began to smile on him and in the midst of splendour and glory, he was suddenly taken away by the Hell-Sergeant without giving any intimation to anybody who knew him, or to himself. I can only say that the loss that our party has sustained in his demise is something that we cannot hope to repair. But there is some little consolation that one from the same family, who possess certain characteristics, which he did not possess, has come to take his place. And we hope that with the driving force that is in him, and which would be supplemented by some of the good characteristics that his predecessor in office had, he would be able to make this present experiment of reform a success. I, on behalf of my party, wish to associate ourselves with the sentiments so ably expressed by Dr. A. R. Menon.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. President: Before I put the resolution for the formal acceptance of the House, I wish to associate myself with the tribute that has been paid from all quarters of the House to the memory of one who was so much loved by everyone who came into contact with him. With the possible exception of the members of his family, I might legitimately claim the longest acquaintance with the deceased leader amongst those who are in this House. I came to know him for the first time as early as 1919 in Madras. Ever since those days I had come to entertain the highest regard and respect for his character. Judged by the ordinary standards of human success and worldly achievements, the life of Mr. Ambat Sivarama Menon would probably be put down as sceptical, if not a failure. But to my mind, his life is one of the finest examples of the truth, that the true measure of a man's worth and success is not measured by the worldly success that attains him, but by the force of his character and the impress that his personality leaves behind him. Judged by this standard Mr. Sivarama Menon had a full and glorious life.

Honourable members of this House need not be reminded of the rough and tumble of political life. It is very rarely that a man who throws in his lot in the political life of a country that escapes the columny, mis-representation and mis-understanding from some quarters. Even though Mr. Sivarama Menon was actively associated with the struggles of party politics at Madras, he had the good fortune of earning and retaining the regard of everyone, irrespective of party aim. That could be said of very few men, and it is an achievement which is not possible unless there is in the man, a deep impress of sturdy character. Everybody, in this House and even outside, knows full well what feelings of regard and affection I entertained for him. In fact when I found that my old friend Sivarama Menon had settled down in Cochin, I said to myself 'here is a man in this State to whom I could confidently look for guidance and advice whenever I am in difficulties' and there were many occasions when I did seek such guidance and got sound advice and wise guidance. When I advised His Highness about the constitutional reforms and when the new scheme of reforms was becoming an actuality, I used to wonder if the uncertain forces that work in democracy would after all lead the one inevitable man in this State to the position of Ministership. And when I found that a kindly fate had shown that guidance, I thought that here was an opportunity for the people of the State to work these reforms with that spirit of good-will and co-operation which is so essential to make it a success. The selection of Mr. Sivarama Menon by His Highness as the first Minister under the new constitution, is a large triumph for personality and character and not to the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

success of political parties (*Hear, hear*). It is a remarkable thing which is very rare where the strifes of party-politics exist, to find that the appointment of such a person as the Minister—the head of a political party—was welcomed by almost everyone in this State, and everyone without any difference of opinion pronounced the judgment that here was a right man for the place in this State.

I have had very few personal calamities and shocks in my life, but let me tell you in all sincerity that the cable I got in Europe about his death was the most acute calamity that I have had for many years. It left me almost non-plussed. It is, as some hon'ble members have pointed out, after his passing away that we began to realise even in a greater measure, the extent of our loss, and what stuff the departed man was made of. After all the greatest tribute that we can pay to a departed soul is to carry out the aims and ideals that inspired him and I have no doubt that that kind of tribute will be paid in more than ample measure by the people of this State. I would now request the hon'ble members to stand in their seats.

The motion was carried, all members standing.

Announcement of Bills assented to or disallowed by His Highness the Maharaja.

Secretary to the Council: Under Standing Order 5 (2) I have to announce to the House that the following bills passed by the Council have been graciously assented to by His Highness the Maharaja:—

1. The Cochin Maternity Benefit Bill—Act XXVII of 1113.
2. The Cochin Debt Conciliation Act (Amendment) Bill—Act XXVIII of 1113.
3. The Cochin Nayar Bill—Act XXIX of 1113.
4. The Cochin Payment of Salaries and Allowances Bill—Act XXXI of 1113.
5. The Cochin Income-tax Act (Amendment) Bill-Act XXXII of 1113.
6. The Cochin Marumakkathayam Bill-Act XXXIII of 1113.

I have also to announce that the Cochin Nambudiri Kudumba Bill passed by the Council has been dissented from by His Highness the Maharaja.

Statement placed on the table.

Rama Varmha Tampuran (*Comptroller of Finance and Accounts*):

Under Rule 58 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly